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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Preparatory Committee
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AGENDA, RULES OF PROCEDURE, DATES, DURATION, VENUE OF AND PARTICIPATION AT THE WORLD CONFERENCE

PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES AT THE INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

STUDIES AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Recommendations on the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparation submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/155

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY GOVERNMENTS

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1. The Government of Mexico attaches the greatest importance to the convening by the United Nations of a World Conference on Human Rights to take place in 1993, since it recognizes the full worth of the work done by the Organization since its inception in the international promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world. Its contribution both to the codification of the principal international standards and to the promotion of implementation mechanisms to ensure that they are fully realized is unparalleled. The formation of a universal culture of human rights is closely bound up with the activities of the United Nations.

2. Mexico has a firmly rooted dedication to the promotion and defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms that has been reflected in its active participation in multilateral forums in devising and adopting international standards and policies to guarantee their full enjoyment.

3. At a time when the topic of human rights and fundamental freedoms has taken on a new dimension on the world scene, the convening of the World Conference on Human Rights is particularly opportune. The realization of human rights must be a priority goal in the current processes of change in international politics.

4. In order for both the preparatory work and for the Conference itself to be a full success, all countries and groups of nations must be afforded the possibility of expressing their views on the work done by the United Nations in this area. Accordingly, the work of the Preparatory Committee, the designation of the venue and the membership of the Bureau of the Conference must reflect the principle of universality by the balanced participation of all regions. All points of view must be reflected in the final result of the Conference.

5. Since the main purpose of the Conference is to assess the progress that has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to identify obstacles and ways in which they can be overcome in order to further progress, the Government of Mexico hopes that the Conference will agree on concrete proposals which reaffirm the value of the endeavours of the United Nations in this area.

6. The results of the Conference must encourage international cooperation at a time when the international situation seems propitious for agreement. This will be possible if the Conference conducts its work on the basis of the principles of objectivity and non-selectivity, avoiding politicization and interference in the internal affairs of States. These principles must be reflected in the Conference's final declaration.

7. The Conference's programme of work must keep to the objectives already approved by the General Assembly, as set out in General Assembly resolution 45/155. It should also take into consideration the recommendations contained in the annex to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30.

8. The promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world will be significantly strengthened when all States have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights. For this reason, the Conference should again urge States which have not done so to become parties to the Covenants and to other relevant important international instruments.

9. Full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights is far from being a reality in most developing countries. Accordingly, it is essential to create favourable external backgrounds which will contribute to the effective enjoyment of human rights. The consolidation of democratic processes in many countries may be endangered unless economic and social development is fostered at the international level. The persistent international economic crisis is a factor that affects the full enjoyment of human rights in many countries whose level of income has fallen.

10. In this regard, the Conference should conduct a thorough examination of all human rights, keeping in view the close link between development and the promotion and protection of human rights, including realization of the right to development. Such an examination must be carried out in the light of the fact that, since 1990, the General Assembly has recognized the interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights, each being of the same importance and meriting the same urgent attention.

11. In addition, one of the great advances in the modern world has been the spread of democratic forms of government. This process has developed in various regions of the world in which different but genuinely democratic political systems have taken shape. In this respect, the Conference must reaffirm the right of every nation to choose its own political system on the basis of its own particular features and historical experience.

12. In the new international situation, the United Nations has an essential role in shaping an international society based on law and the promotion of human rights. The World Conference will have to set new targets in this field, based on the purposes and principles of the Charter. It is a responsibility shared by all States and not the exclusive prerogative of some States alone.